

ACWW Story

The history of the Associated Country Women of the World makes timely reading now when we are looking forward to the conference to be held in Canada next August. From a history of the movement, published in *The Countrywoman* last July, we learn such facts as these:

The first farm women's organization, the Agricultural Women's Organization of Finland was founded in 1797, one hundred years before the Women's Institute was organized at Stoney Creek. "By the end of the nineteenth century" says the history, "rural women's organizations were springing up, quite unknown to each other, in Germany, in Canada and in Scandinavia. The first Institute in Great Britain was set up in Wales in 1915. In Germany and Denmark it was the emancipation of women which encouraged rural women to band themselves together for their own good and the good of their homes. In Norway and Australia it was loneliness and isolation."

The history tells how Mrs. Alfred Watt sailed from Canada to Paris in 1923 to attend the Agriculture Congress in company with Lady Denman of England and M. de Vuyst who had carried the Institute idea from Canada to Belgium. At that time Mrs. Watt "carried in her pocket" a draft Constitution of an International Federation of Women's Institutes, "but," the history explains "the time was not yet ripe. The movement must be launched by someone with prestige and power and a great international influence." Four years later on April 30, 1929 with the support of Lady Aberdeen, and at the invitation of the International Council of Women, the International Conference of Rural Women's organizations opened in London. Twenty-three countries were represented. The rural women met again in 1930 at Vienna, once more at the invitation of the International Council, and here they made further plans for a world organization of rural women.

The second triennial conference was held at Stockholm in 1933, where the League of Northern Housewives entertained the delegates. Here the international organization was born, and Mrs. Watt had the honour of naming it "The Associated Country Women of the World."

The infant organization grew and thrived. In 1936 its triennial conference was held in Washington; in 1939 it met in London. Then came the second world war and the executive carried on without funds and with its staff depleted from eight to two; but it "emerged from the rubble" stronger than ever. In 1946 ACWW was given consultative status on the United Nations. The next conference was held at Amsterdam in 1947, and the next one at

Copenhagen in 1950. Commenting on the work of the pioneers, Mrs. Watt, Lady Aberdeen, Fru Marie Michelet of Norway, the historian adds "The new leaders, Mrs. Raymond Sayre of the United States and Mrs. Charles Russell of England and their fine team of officers are worthy successors and more than equal to the heavy tasks laid upon them."

The history continues with contributions from member societies, the Martha Movement in Finland the Women's Institute Movement in Northern Ireland and in Ceylon. These give colourful pictures of the life of country women in other parts of the world. Copies of the complete article may be borrowed from the Loan Library, Women's Institute Branch, 1207 Bay Street, Toronto. It would make an interesting "paper" for an Institute meeting.

The Moo-Cow-Moo

By Edmund Vance Cook

My Pa held me up to the moo-cow-moo
So close I could almost touch;
An' I fed him a couple of times or two
An' I wasn't a 'fraid-cat much.

But, ef my Pa goes into the house
An' ef my mamma goes too,
I jest keep still like a little mouse
'Cause the moo-cow-moo might moo!

The moo-cow-moo has a tail like a rope,
An' it's ravelled down where it grows,
An' it's jest like feelin' a piece of soap
All over the moo-cow's nose.

The moo-cow-moo has lots of fun
Jest swingin' its tail about,
But ef he opens his mouth, I run
'Cause that's were the moo comes out.

The moo-cow-moo has deers on its head
An' his eyes bug out of their place:
An' the nose of the moo-cow-moo is spread
All over the end of his face.

An' his feet is nothing but finger-nails
An' his momma don't keep them cut
An' he gives folks milk in water-pails
Ef he don't keep his handles shut.

'Cause ef you or me pulls them handles, why
The moo-cow-moo says it hurts
But our hired man he sets close by
An' squirts an' squirts an' squirts.

This poem by an internationally known author is a classic for "reciters." Perhaps you would like to keep it for possible future use.
— Editor.